

13 WAYS OF LOOKING AT EZRA

1. Read "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" by Wallace Stevens. Savor it. Try to recreate the images in your mind. Avoid too much interpretation.
2. Read the excerpt from Kenneth Lincoln's analysis of the poem on the back of the sheet. Define the boxed words. If you understand the word from the context, great! If not, use the dictionary to look them up. Either way, write down a definition in your own words.

epigrams	
off-rhyme	
radical	
paraphrase	
gnomic	
facets	
spectral	
iridescent	
refraction	

3. Re-read Wallace Stevens' poem. For each stanza, write a brief but meaningful comment or paraphrase. Some questions that might help you know what to say: What is the point made here? What purpose does this image suggest or emphasize? How does the stanza create a feeling?

I.	V.	IX.
II.	VI.	X.
III.	VII.	XI.
IV.	VIII.	XII.
		XIII.

4. Read chapter 9. While you read, record 13 impressions of Ezra. **These may be details you quote/copy from the text or your own thoughts and observations.**
5. As you do, consider Lincoln's comments on Stevens' impressions. Try for impressions that fit these characteristics explored in Lincoln's analysis:
 - MAKE THEM STRANGE: not a collection of epigrams or ideas, but of sensations
 - Choose impressions that SLOW DOWN TIME, HEIGHTEN AWARENESS, & OPEN RADICAL INTERPRETIVE POSSIBILITIES
 - Look for opportunities to THROW [your analysis] INTO RADICAL INNOCENCE—OFFER WITNESS AND TESTAMENT, LESS INTERPRETATION
 - Think of your impressions as "IRREGULAR FACETS THAT REFRACT, REDEFINE, SHIFT THE IMAGE" of the character.

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VII.	

Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant
Anne Tyler

Name: _____
Period: 1A 2A 1B 2B